



the life & times of frank zappa and the mothers

The recent Australian Tour of Frank Zappa and his giggling accomplices has aroused widespread interest in the work of this rock world's greatest eccentric genius, even to the extent of his being featured by the ABC on Monday Conference. Honestly believing Zappa to be the most exciting musical thing currently happening on board Spaceship Earth, and having been sufficiently inspired by the experience of witnessing his performance in Sydney a couple of weeks ago, I decided, at the risk of seeming highly presumptuous, to set down a few thoughts on his music and its significance for the world.

Frank Zappa was born of Italian parents in Baltimore on December 21st, 1940, was dismissed as a failure by his high school, and attended college for one semester before dropping out. His musical career commenced at age 15 when he played drums for a group called the Ramblers. He started playing the guitar a few years later. For a time he held an 8-to-5 job in advertising, and was a member of a "tiptoe-thru-the-tulips-Type band, wearing white tuxedo coat, black pants and patent-leather shoes, hair slicked back, choreography, played 3 twist numbers a night, and the rest of the stuff was "Oh-How-we Danced-the-Night"...". At this stage together with old high-school friend Don van Vliet (now avant-garde rock musician Captain Beefheart) he was working on a serious project: a rock operetta entitled "I was a Teenage Maltshop". Lack of money prevented it from being produced.

After a while in jail (for what reason I am unable to discover) Zappa emerged and formed the original Mothers of Invention, which comprised Zappa himself as lead guitarist; lead vocalist Ray Collins; two drummers Jim Black and Billy Mundi; pianist Don Preston, Roy Estrada on electric bass and Bund Gardner on woodwinds. Ugly, hairy, outrageous in attire and behaviour, the Mothers erupted onto the contemporary music scene like a thunderous fart in the quiet corridors of the White House. On stage they were totally unpredictable, treating their audiences with a furious contempt which sometimes involved pelting those nearest the stage with rotten fruit. Someone must have been impressed with their act, as they were signed up with a record company and in 1966 recorded their first album, which was entitled FREAK OUT. Blunt and harsh in its satirical content innovative in its musical content, it was followed in 1967 by ABSOLUTELY FREE. ABSOLUTELY FREE was, at the time (and may still be) by far the most brilliant piece of rock music ever recorded. It is an integrated performance consisting of two "Underground Oratorios" respectively entitled "Absolutely Free" and "the MOI American Pageant". "Absolutely Free" itself is a violently nonsensical outburst of musical hysteria, built around absurd dada imagery: plastic people, a duke of prunes, vegetables which, when you call, respond to you. It includes a 7-minute-long improvisational track, highlighting Zappa's

guitar work, entitled "the Invocation & Ritual Dance of the Young Pumpkin". Its companion is an insane journey through suburban America, a vivid musical collage characterised by rapid shifts through a bewildering variety of musical styles and moods, from beautiful orchestral passages to cabaret-style jazz, which culminates in "Brown Shoes Don't Make It" — the breathless musical saga of the seduction of a 13-year-old girl — and concludes with "America Drinks & Goes Home" — an intricately assembled reconstruction of a '50s night club scene; complete with thumping piano, shuffle drums, and Zappa rendering an insane parody of a compere's patter: "...it's about time to close now....hope you've had as much fun as we've had....hope we've played your requests....the songs you like to hear...."

Two more records in a similar vein, LUMPY GRAVY and WE'RE ONLY IN IT FOR THE MONEY, were subsequently released, and in 1968 CRUISIN' WITH REUBEN AND THE JETS; an album which, at first listening, appears to be straight 1950's style rock'n'roll, complete with banal love lyrics, but in which the form of the music is employed to make a parody of itself — The cliché is stated with such seriousness that it can only be non-serious.

In the same year, the Mothers of Invention launched an experiment in the combination of two contemporary art forms, rock music and the movie film. It was entitled UNCLE MEAT and unfortunately never completed due to lack of money, but a double album, containing most of the music which had been recorded for it, was released. Although somewhat fragmented, UNCLE MEAT contains some of the most exciting avant-garde instrumental material which Zappa has yet recorded. Extensive use was made of imaginative production techniques here; over-dubbing, compressed tapes and weird sound effects are an integral part of the actual compositions, not mere afterthoughts or additions. The music itself reflects a very wide variety of influences — jazz, chamber music, and rock'n'roll — which are combined to create some brilliantly weird compositions: "Dog Breath, in the Year of the Plague", "Project X" and "the Uncle Meat Variations" especially.

After having produced two more primarily instrumental LP's, BURNT WEENY SANDWICH and WEASELS RIPPED MY FLESH, Zappa disbanded the original Mothers in the fall of 1969. Since then he has been working with a constantly changing assortment of musicians. He has produced several heavily jazz-oriented instrumental albums. In HOT RATS he appears to be examining classical forms through the medium of rock music, and this theme has been carried through to form the basis of the recently-released GRAND WAZOO, which was recorded with a 20-piece band. His second movie, 200 MOTELS, has had considerable commercial success in the US. (although it is currently banned in Australia). This animated film depicts the life on the road of a touring band. Although it is musically less distinguished than UNCLE MEAT, the film's overall conception is unique; the music and the celluloid are synchronized to create an effect which has been described as an "audio-visual barrage". With the band with which he recorded

entirely live albums: LIVE AT THE FILLMORE and JUST ANOTHER BAND FROM L.A. These consist of Zappa satire at its best, bluntest, smuttiest and most vaudeville; musically they are loud and solid, featuring the frenzied lead vocals of Mark Volman and Howard Kaylan. In "Billy the Mountain" from JUST ANOTHER BAND Zappa creates in the form of a musical narrative a lengthy comic tale concerning the vacation wanderings through America of Billy the Mountain and his wife Ethel the Tree.

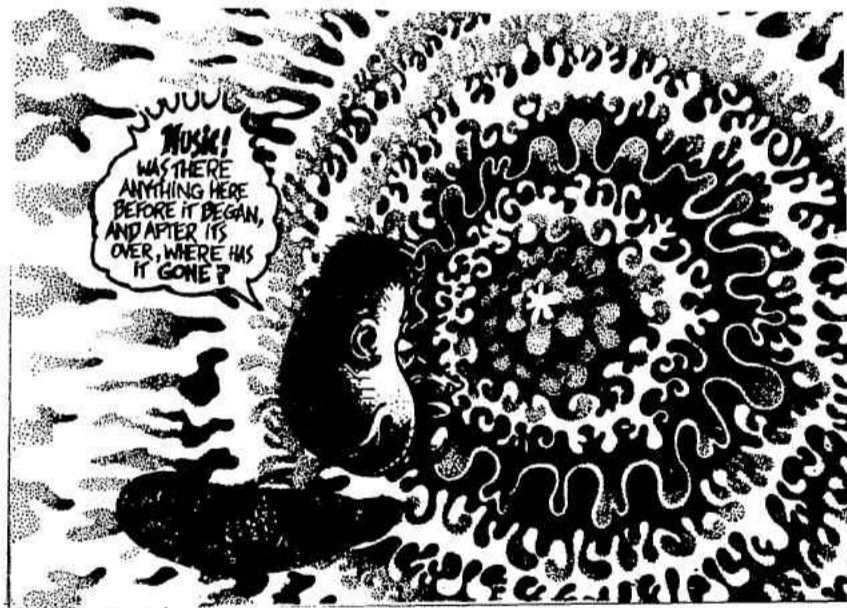
The essence of Zappa's art has always been dynamic unpredictability; his work has always been consistently ahead of, and distinct from, the mainstream of progressive rock. Its uniqueness is the result of the fact that it is the expression of genuine avant-garde revolutionary consciousness. Zappa's endeavour is analogous with that of the post-World War I Dada movement in painting and poetry. Beneath the sarcasm and ribaldry, his satire is a direct and hard-hitting critique of the social morality and institutions of middle-class America. It is able to transcend the misplaced idealism of the folk-rock style of musical protest, in that the protest is contained in the forms as well as the content of the work. Musical imagery contained in ABSOLUTELY FREE, UNCLE MEAT, or "Billy the Mountain" is a confrontation: of the rational, categorized world by an opposite, irrational world of contrived absurdity. Zappa set out to demonstrate the possibilities which could be realised by deliber-

ate creation of disorder and incongruity in music. This is achieved by the removal of musical elements from their familiar context, juxtaposition of violently opposed moods and styles. His music is a totally-involving experience. He has himself commented upon the difficulty experienced in getting musicians performing in a manner which is, by ordinary standards, ugly — participating in a process of questioning of established aesthetic standards.

At the gut level of communication, Zappa works by inspiration of ambivalent reactions: by an angry and uninhibited assault upon the sensory system of the listener. In one sense, his is a profoundly anti-idealistic stance; he sets out to defile the empty ideal of "love" espoused by hip and straight culture alike. As he says: "I think it's easier to make somebody mad than to make somebody love, and seeing how hate is the absolute negative of love, if you can evoke hatred and its really there, you could polarise it and you could really have love".

Historically, the sociological dimension of Zappa's music can be seen as the expression of the cynicism of the post-Chicago era in American politics, just as Dylan was a phenomenon of the hope of the Kennedy era. However, to categorize his art in such a fashion could be simplistic; its essence is its ambiguity and its spirit of irrational opposition to the established reality, whatever form it may happen to take.

Trevor Lewis



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letters



The Fuck!

Dear Sir,

The only right purpose of organised society is to help the human individual. That statement seems so obviously true to me that I wouldn't even call it a political statement.

That's why I can't accept to see organised society smashing the individual. Most of the harm done by organised society is, I presume, blindly done without malice.

But when I see or read of a cold-blooded deliberate smashing of the individual by some official body, e.g. a magistrate, or headmaster, or psychiatrist, organised society begins to look like just another of the monsters that man has to share this planet with.

I was agonising like this one day and thinking through the list of activities we most condemn people for: Rape, prostitution, theft; to name some of the traditional great crimes of western civilisation. "Why do we smash people so hard who are 'found guilty' of these things?" I thought.

Then suddenly it dawned on me — these are the hallmarks of western civilisation. Any human who happens to be born with our culture will be virtually trained to rape (if male), prostitute herself (if female), and steal. Probably a list of other living habits too.

It must be admitted by anybody with their eyes open that in the typical Australian fuck, the male is acting like a rapist and the female like a prostitute. Look at the very concept of rape. The concept of rape is that the male demands sex whereas the female is "taken", the male is big and strong the female little and weak, and she lies down defenceless while he gets on top and imposes his will on her. Yes that is the concept of rape and it is also the concept of the normal christian standard marital fuck! We are sending young men to jail for 7 years hard labor for doing exactly what thousands of typical Australians do each day. We brought them up to do it.

The same is true of prostitution. A woman is a prostitute who fucks for ulterior motives, reasons other than pleasure. That makes most Australian women veteran prostitutes.

If a woman openly shows that this is what she is doing, we condemn her for it, rubbish her, and take her children off her for it.

The links between theft and profit-making are also obvious from a motivational point of view. We of western civilisation have this treasured conception of bliss-through-getting-something-for-nothing. We all know this yearning for profit. We are brought up to it. The thief that we punish so severely is the normal Australian boy, a businessman gone very slightly astray.

My conclusion from these reflections is that we punish most severely that behaviour which most closely resembles our own desires.

Everybody in western society can understand the thrill of stealing. Some peoples — those that don't have a private property system — can't see what we see in it.

Every man raised in a white christian family knows intimately the desire to rape. The preacher virtually tells him how to do it.

Every western woman has been de-sexed by this man-run society, and some form of prostitution (e.g. marriage) seems the only rational use to make of her cunt.

These highest of western ideals — rape, prostitution, and theft — are also the direst of western crimes — illegal marriage, and illegal property!

I still haven't worked out all the implications of this stunning relationship between officialised aggression — "punishment" — and inculcated desires — "proper ambitions". We are smashed for doing what we are trained to do!

I write this down so that others can work on it too.

Yours truly,
Phil O'Connor.

Research and Teaching

Ms (or Dr) Beryl Rawson takes me to task in her letter of last week for suggesting that even in the humanities anyone intending to become an academic really now needs to get a doctorate, even though he or she may not have any interest in "research".

Her argument that this is disproved by the number of lecturers here at ANU who do not have doctorates is interesting, but inevitably shaky, since most of those now holding lectureships entered the academic system some time back, whereas my argument clearly referred to a recent and still-growing trend.

It may well be that Dr Rawson's subject (Classics) is one in which the PhD still merely fulfills what I take to be its rightful role: that is, as an optional course which an academic teacher may or may not choose to take time off for at some stage in his/her career, depending on whether he/she has developed a genuine interest in researching some suitably specialised topic.

But even if this is still the case in some departments, there is no reason for complacency, as experience in others has already shown that the situation can change absolutely and catastrophically in only two or three years.

For instance, English (the discipline I happen to know best) long held out against the thesis-race, with a success which is sufficiently indicated by the number of senior staff who even

today have only a BA Hons or less. Yet within the last four years or so it has cracked so utterly under the increasing pressure of thesis graduates that it is now common for even a tutorship advertisement to draw several applicants with doctorates. In America the situation is notoriously much further advanced, and one hears of Canadian professors who report hundreds of enquiries a year from applicants, most of them with PhD's, for positions that have never even been advertised.

With the slow-down in the expansion of the universities in Australia (ultimately a function of the birthrate), and the increasing practice of doing doctorates in the humanities, the PhD becomes every year more essential for an academic career.

This might not matter if the PhD were a genuinely relevant part of academic education. But, as I pointed out, in many humanities disciplines it now involves simply "research" of so remote, trivial, and trivializing a nature that it might be better to consider it a disqualification for teaching that discipline to undergraduates.

It is inadequate, therefore, to take consolation in the fact that in some departments the PhD isn't all that necessary yet (intending academics, like everyone else, have to plan for future trends); or in the fact that some professors say (and a few really mean) that they take no notice of the PhD as a teaching qualification, while other professors are at least prepared to pass over PhD applicants in favour of recent graduates of their own whom they personally know and believe to be good teachers.

The junior academic today is inevitably aware that even if he has been lucky enough to achieve his first appointment without having a PhD, he is still unlikely thereafter to secure the tenure and promotions he wants, or the opportunity to work in the city he prefers, until he has it.

Whether or not Bobbie Gledhill's difficulties in securing tenure and/or promotion are the result of her failure to take out "a PhD or similar" (as Nick Jose's original article stated) has yet to fully emerge; but it is a very substantial part of the truth, then it is important to raise the general issue of reform of the out-of-control thesis-race, and to offer a forceful reminder that at least in the humanities, research-scholars (alias shit-diggers) do not necessarily make the best teachers. Mark O'Connor.



Degradation of Education

Dear Sir,

Once again with reference to the semester issue I was disturbed to read in the ANU Reporter V4 No. 10 13/7/73, that Mr Refshauge and Mr Roe apparently stressed the need for, "...greater use of continuous assessment of students through the semester, of assessment on the basis of assignments and, possibly, of quickly marked, multiple choice or true/false examination papers".

I would argue that, if Mr Refshauge and Mr Roe hold this opinion and present it as the opinion of the student body, they are once again showing the gross incompetence with which they have handled the whole issue. Perhaps Mr Refshauge and Mr Roe did not realise that, by presenting these views and particularly by accepting the compromise calendar, they were supporting an

educationally degenerate system.

"Greater use of continuous assessment" within the semester unit presumably means assessment on the basis of short factual papers, something akin to "quickly marked, multiple choice or true/false examination papers".

It need hardly be mentioned that, with the current emphasis on competition and examination in our education system and our society, this type of examination and the type of knowledge required to complete it, would be reflected in the course work presented for study, need it be pointed out that this is indicative of encroachment of the "Degree Factory" assembly line educational system. It would also seem strange that one of the main educational assumptions of "continuous assessment", particularly in relation to assessment by assignment, needs to be brought to the attention of our able administrators. The main assumption being that the greatest educational benefit available through the use of continuous assessment, particularly by assignment, is the benefit derived from receiving feedback from work completed. It is evident, both from the dynamics of the present semester arrangement and from experience, that no such feedback occurs or is likely to occur. Students cannot be expected to complete assignments within the first month of a semester as they generally have no background in the subject. Examiners cannot, and cannot be expected to mark essays with enough speed to be able to return them to students before the student has to start the next essay. Continuous assessment is of little use without feedback.

One often wonders what possesses our "able" administrators when they make these moronic decisions, and I also wonder why students sit back and allow the education that we receive to be degraded, both in intrinsic and apparent value. Neil Seagrims.

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Dear Sir,

it is with much regret that I bottom the barrel. In particular, I must lodge strong grossly "pot-beely" observations. I demand an apology for the insinuations that my body is "curiously deformed", and that I have a "hunch-back" and a Mr Flanagan pertaining to my healthy, nimble physique. I find many to contact my "native objection" Has Woroni finally scrapped the grossly inaccurate to border on the libelous.

Yours in
Jack Growford

Australian National University Sports Union


At the Sports Council Meeting (16 July), a proposal concerning fees for 1974 was unanimously accepted. Since 1970, when Sports Union fees were last adjusted to \$12 for full time students and \$10 for part timers, the inflation rate has increased at the rate of 8% p.a. Wages and administrative costs associated with the Sports Union office (which is paid by members and not by the University), have increased correspondingly. Obviously it was only a matter of time before fees would once again demand reassessment. The Sports Council is confident that merely placing the facts before Sports Union members, you will realise that the continued existence of the Sports Union, simply at its present level of activity, impinges on an increase in revenue.

In 1972 Council withdrew a similar proposal for an increase when it considered the case could not be sufficiently documented in the time available. The present proposal, that fees be increased to \$16 for undergraduate members, staff and graduates, was not made lightly. However, as soon as agreement was reached it was decided that all relevant information should be released for student discussion.

Without any increase in fees, the Sports Union's deficit by 1978, without allowing for the proposed Gymnasium and swimming pool complex, is projected at \$80,000. Unless money starts growing on trees, its goodbye Sports Union. You may think that would be a blessing in disguise. Well, those students who have enjoyed the Squash Court facilities for a total of 15,000 hours since they were opened, might not agree with you.

As the fee structure stands now there is a discrepancy between the amount contributed by full-time and part-time students (the latter paying \$2 less). In 1970 the Sports Council intended the fees charged to be the same and were forced to adjust their budget to this loss of revenue. Now, however, Council is of the opinion that because of the Sports Union's increased role as a recreational body rather than simply supporting Sporting Clubs on campus, its facilities are more generally accessible and thus part-timers should pay the same increased fee as full-time students (NB the usage ratio of the Squash Courts between part-time and full-time members is 7:9).

Well there are a few facts. For an overall picture backed up by fairly convincing figures, talk to any of your elected Sports Council representatives if you want a chance to constructively discuss the issue or bitch about it attend the General Meeting, to be held on Tuesday evening 31st July (Physics Lecture Theatre) and use your vote to support the necessary evil of a fee rise.



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Doctors freak out

There is a lot more behind the arguments that the General Practitioners society are putting forward against the National Health Scheme than solely concern for the health and well being of the patient.

A sampling of some of the literature the society distributes shows this quite plainly.

The GPS circular ["for members only"] states that "The contents of 'Society News' are secret and confidential to members of the Society only. Please note that the political success of the Society could be destroyed by 'leakage' of information confidential to members."

A leaflet issued to patients by the GPS says:

"The control of our Country has fallen into the hands of socialists because many who voted for the Labor Party were unaware of the true nature of socialism... "Socialism was the brain-child of Karl Marx, a bitter man and a strange mixture of semi-scientist and half-baked philosopher. Lenin accepted the teachings of Marx, fomented a revolution in Russia, exterminated millions of ordinary people and enslaved the rest.

"The men who now 'govern' your Country call themselves 'Fabian Socialists.' Their doctrines are little different from those of their Russian and Chinese friends, except that the Russian and Chinese leaders decided to take a short cut and turn their countries into socialist States by 'revolution'. The Australian socialists intend to attain the same ends by the somewhat slower process of 'evolution', by stealth, by misleading propaganda, and by attacking those who value freedom...

"A certain section of the news media is an active partner in this propaganda plot. Some newspaper proprietors have been steadily softening you up for years, so that even now you may have come to believe that some loss of freedom is inevitable."

There is plenty more about the 'slave State' creeping up on us, and the fight for "freedom" which "the GPS is spearheading."

"The Australian GP" of July, 1973, prints an extract from a book called "None Dare Call It Conspiracy." This is top of the list in the catalogue of books promoted by the League of Rights' Heritage Bookshop (main centre in Melbourne of fascist, racist literature). It was written by Garry Allen of the ultra-Right John Birch Society in the United States.

The book describes an international Jewish-Communist financial conspiracy to destroy democracy. So way-out is it that the likes of President Nixon are included in the plot.

The Australian echoes of this fantastic conspiracy theory do not lag behind the John Birchers. In "The Australian GP" of June, 1973, an article by "Cramond" links the big international plot with the Federal Government's health scheme. It says: "The Labor Party simply made more explicit the policy that had been followed by preceding governments, all of which are socialist".

The other leg of the ultra-Right theory is an international financial plot.

An article by Monash University medical students recently printed in the Journal of the Medical Students' Association which challenges the ultra-Right trends says that "the most abhorrent article appeared in the June, 1973, edition of 'The Australian GP.' This article, 'The Economics of Politics' by 'Cramond' outlines the basic position adopted. (And which is put across more subtly in some articles and in greater detail in others).

"Using the author's own words - 'In turn, the central Reserve Bank depends upon the world bank for loans (credit) The world bank is extra-national. Thus the 'individuals' in control of the

world banking system are in control of the overall financial policy of the world. Meanwhile, the nominal owners of industry and the nominal governments of all countries have become mere managers for the owners."

The Monash students continue: "Exactly who are these 'individuals' to whom 'Cramond' refers? We do not wish to make further comment at this moment except to indicate that this argument strongly resembles that 'concerning the International Jewish Conspiracy' used so effectively by the nazis in Germany and the fascists in Italy."

But all is not lost, we can be assured. There is a gallant band who will lead us out of the dark shadow. As a certain John A. Malan writes in "The Australian GP" of June, 1973: "It requires a group with integrity beyond reproach, invincible courage and sufficient influence to command attention in spite of every effort that will be made to distort and discredit its motives. Only in the medical profession can these virtues be found in such concentrated form."

The rise and fall of Cambodia's leaders

It seems to happen quite regularly. The head-of-state of a nation goes overseas for medical treatment and while he is overseas, the American machine goes to work and deposes him. It happened to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, of Cambodia. He explains it at some length in his book "My War with the CIA". American puppets had been prime parts of his government for some time, and simply waited to be set into action by the CIA. These people were Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, and Lon Nol's brother Lon Non.

Well it appears Lon Nol has not been able to satisfy the Americans either. You see he is being beaten. And quite severely!

Sihanouk attempted to avoid US domination, and so was overthrown. Lon Nol who replaced him is now being effectively beaten by the Liberation forces, so is it time for him to be replaced?

From recent indications it would seem so.

Lon Nol has been making a few independent moves lately; this is abhorrent to the Americans. He is also being effectively crushed by the pro-Sihanouk nationalist and communist forces. This is even more abhorrent. So obviously he has to go.

Last week Lon Nol was offered the chance to go to Washington for "medical treatment". He turned down the offer, apparently aware of the fact that his power may be taken from him.

But who would the Americans replace him with. Someone more to the right such as Lon Non, or another nonentity presently hidden in the state infrastructure with no popular base.

It appears rather ridiculous. The Americans fail to see any such thing as peoples will, or historical inevitability.



The Winner!

Atlanta (UPS) - A recent world-wide survey found that the most hated man in the world is Richard Nixon. Hitler came second.

MUNGO

Mungo MacCallum - Press and the Law: Monday 23

I hope this meeting was not typical of the ANU Law Society. Mungo was prepared to talk but his audience displayed far more interest in their prog. Perhaps this was not surprising as the audience could not accept much of Mungo's serious points on the Law - but it is disappointing in that no law student seriously argued against Mungo.

Mungo started with the proposition that next to doctors, lawyers were probably the greatest rip-off artists in Australia. After Labor had tackled the doctors, the lawyers would be the next body to feel the sharp edge of reform. He suggested that the lawyers' equivalent of the doctors' "quick in-out with a Valium prescription" are divorce, workers compensation, and libel cases.

On libel cases, Mungo's particular forte, the law is absurd. Mungo said that every time you mentioned a person's name or sometimes when you didn't, it was possible to be successfully sued. Here he gave an example of a satirical piece he wrote in the Australian on a Brisbane police porn raid, where a certain Sonnover, Ug and Og who communicated in grunts were featured - three Brisbane policemen threatened to sue under grounds that they were clearly identified.

The criteria for successful suing is either a jury trial, or doubt whether the defendant has either (i) written the truth or (ii) acted in the public interest or (iii) acted without malice or (iv) has shown balance - a mysterious quality which can be defined contradictorily to (i).

In NSW there is the extra provision that the user does not have to be alive, a provision unique in the world to NSW. Mungo suggests the reason for NSW's unusual law is that the son of a man, who figured largely in Cyril Pearl's 'Wild Men of Sydney', bought off the NSW government to change the law to prevent the book being published.

Generally the question facing sub-editors (and DSPs) is not whether an unfavourable statement about a person is libelous or not; but whether he is going to sue. Mungo's experience indicates he is unlikely to sue if he is poor, or if he is an active politician. But the Libel Laws have been called the 'politicians retirement fund'. Mungo's only so far unsuccessful court case is to Arthur Calwell, because of an article which suggested Calwell wasn't helping a Labor victory in the last elections. The case is continuing in New South Wales on behalf of the dead Victorian.

Mungo thought law reform was unlikely. Most papers despite sporadic complaints, did not attack the laws. Generally they are content to pay off people threatening to sue as almost every libel case one loses. He said the Gorton-Walsh case would be important as not many people bothered to sue Radio and TV as their professional libel men found it difficult to track down exactly what was said. Gorton's \$16,000 may start a trend here.

All the established press have a few outstanding libel cases - Nation Review has quite a number (including one each from the Murdoch and Packer presses - so much for press concern). It is getting fairly expensive to run a paper these days. Reform in NSW could occur - if the newspaper baron's decided to bucket the Askin government - the corruption there makes Tasmania look mild, or if they merely threatened to do so if the Law was not changed.

Judging from the comments of the Law students present there is no feeling for libel law reform amongst them (They also thought TDT was biased and Mungo was very biased). Murphy, MacCallum considers, is not capable of tackling it Federally. Most of the State Governments prefer the present laws - Labor in Tasmania and Libs in NSW and Country Party in Queensland.

Mungo thought the American

libel laws which protect people printing without malice what they reasonably believe to be true, to be a reasonable law. He thought the Ervin committee was taking free speech too far. Still, this is all dreams. Laws are changed by lawyers and they will never change what is a major source of their income.

Andrew McCredie.

Mozambique Liberation Movement

The Mozambique Liberation Movement (M.L.M.) has decided to invite to Australia a representative of FRELIMO, the Mozambique liberation organization. FRELIMO has led the struggle by the Africans of Mozambique for freedom from the oppressive colonial rule of Portugal.

Portugal maintains its foot hold in Mozambique with an army of 70,000 men and the military equipment of NATO, using these in such atrocities as the recent murder of some 400 Africans at Wiriyamu.

The FRELIMO Freedom Fighters are conducting, with the support of the people, a guerilla war against these forces.

The M.L.M. believes that the struggle of the people of Mozambique deserves the full support of all people and that the visit of a leader of FRELIMO will allow Australians the opportunity to express their solidarity with the fight for freedom, and the end of colonial rule.

Rock 'n' Roll

Coming to Canberra soon; a series of rock 'n' roll movies. Following the recent success of Monterey Pop and Don't Look Back, both shown recently, a Sydney organisation will be bringing more such films to Canberra soon.

On August, 7, 8, 9 'Gimme Shelter' and 'Concert for Bangla Desh' will be screened. After that, 'Keep on Rockin' with Bo Diddley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard, Soul to Soul (Ike and Tim Turner and Santana), Rainbow Bridge (Henrix) and 200 Motels (Zappa) will be shown at various times.

Bluddy 'eck



The 1974 Presidency

Declared candidates for the position of President of the Students' Association for next year are few.

We have the Liberal Clubs Alan Murray-Jones, the Labor Clubs, Michael Dunn, and the forever trying, forever failing Andrew McCredie. Other possibilities include Patrick Power, ex-union board Chairman, Michael Marks, ex-SRC Information Officer and present Treasurer Craig Clayton.

It is also likely that the goons will again nominate in force, (oh dear). Another name that has been mentioned is Burgmann Colleges favourite son John Cropper.

So far the race is wide open. None of the declared candidates have proven great talents, so why not get into it yourself. Well, the more the merrier. It's a great job, free room and board (in Garran Hall) plus \$5 per week. A comfortable office (close to the bar) lots of friends, and not too much to do if you really don't want to.

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Mark Darling
Chris MacPhillamy
Alan Murray-Jones

Calendar Wrangles

So you think the battle over the academic calendar is finished? There's been remarkably little publicity for the fact that while a semester calendar is dead, so too is the year long (or 3 term) calendar. And what we are left with is a quaternary calendar - presented as a *fait accompli*, courtesy of your friendly local Board of the School of General Studies.

Faced with the opposition to semesters of the staff of Arts and Asian Studies, faced with a resolution favouring a year long calendar from Law, faced with the doubts held by many a Scientist, and perhaps most significantly, faced with the results of the Students' Association plebiscite of student opinion (66% of re-enrolling students responding preferred a year long calendar), the Standing Committee of the Board and finally the Board itself could only reject the proposed 1975 semester calendar.

The battle over the calendar has been fought for some years now. Proposals that we adopt a semester system were mooted as long ago as 1968 and probably earlier - well before most of us arrived on campus (except for the occasional SRC aeriatric).

And the front lines have been pitched ever since. The Board gave added momentum to the tide of battle by approving the idea of semesters in principle in 1971. Since that date, there has been a 'full and frank exchange of views at all levels'. When, in late 1972, the Board looked like adopting the proposed semester calendar, there was an extra flurry of activity. The Board, as a sop to opinion on campus, set up its Working Party on Semesters - half staff and half students - its meetings just happened to be timed during the 1972 final exams but there was at least an attempt to have it appear as if the opinion of those affected by any decision was being taken into account. When the word "attempt" is used, that is what is meant. For at the Board's November meeting the recommendation of the very body the Board set up for advice on the matter was rejected.

Admittedly, the recommendation was only a bits and piece compromise calendar which went something like

9 weeks teaching
3 weeks break
4 weeks teaching
2 weeks break
6 weeks teaching
3 weeks break
7 weeks teaching

Its easily seen, however, that the intention was to produce a compromise calendar acceptable to both those on semesters at the moment as well as those studying year long units. It was recognised that "the calendar might prove slightly less satisfactory for year long teaching".

In its Report, the Working Party concluded by both pointing out the desirability to meet again and expressing a willingness to do so early in 1973 "to give further thought to such changes that should accompany the introduction of the calendar" if the Board so desired.

But the Report was not adopted. The Board's support for the semester calendar was reaffirmed.

It was then up to student representatives in all the faculties to fight a rear guard action - better still, to bring into

Continued back page



Le Bomb Gone!

The French have exploded their atomic bomb despite protests from Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Tahiti, Japan and numerous other countries.

The Chinese and the Russians have also exploded bombs recently (despite protests from Australia, New Zealand etc etc etc).

It's all very unpleasant that these bombs are being tested and the worlds nuclear weapon reserves are increasing and increasing. And it is all very admirable that the government, and individual Australian citizens get incensed by such actions, but at the same time as we are expressing anger over such activities, Australia is being used by the United States as a means to direct its own nuclear weapons systems against other countries.

The United States presently has over 300 military bases in Australia, and is negotiating for more space to locate an Omega base to direct its submarine nuclear fleet. As well as the Omega system which is unarguably part of the American nuclear defence link-up, North west Cape, Pine Gap, and Womera bases are also invaluable for the American nuclear war machine.

To seriously oppose nuclear weapons we must oppose foreign bases on Australian soil.

Second Sex Strikes

The staff-student strike at Sydney University has achieved its aims.

Post Graduate students Liz Jacka and Jean Curthays were last week appointed as (supervised) teachers for the new Philosophy course, 'Philosophical Aspects in Feminist Thought' at Sydney University.

The Professorial Board there appointed them by 23 votes to 21, reversing its previous decision of June 18th (40 votes to 7) not to appoint them.

The appointment was a clear reversal of a previously held position due to combined staff-student pressure, [and worker pressure after the imposing of a Builders Labourers Federation 'green-ban' on Sydney campus]. It was a victory for the womens liberation movement, in the face of antagonists such as the Arts faculty member who said,

"The idea that twentieth century women are oppressed is simply silly..."

If we approve this course we will not be able to consistently refuse a course on the oppression of twentieth century children".

and even more so it was a victory for the movement towards the democratic, staff-student management of departments and courses.

It was a Philosophy department staff-student meeting which originally approved the course, in the same manner that staff-student meeting decide all internal Philosophy departmental policy at Sydney.

As already mentioned the course and teachers Jacka and Curthays were initially approved way back in March this year by the Philosophy Department. They were then also approved by the Arts Faculty. Under normal circumstances the course could then have commenced. Instead in stepped the Professor of Philosophy, the infamous David Armstrong who strongly opposed the course. His prime objection seemed to be that the women were "marxists", and that it (Marxism) "is the most over-worked subject in the Philosophy Department".

Due to Armstrongs objections the matter was passed to the deputy Vice-Chancellor, who proceeded to pass the buck to a Professorial Board committee which favoured it, then a full Professorial board meeting which condemned it.

This condemnation prompted the strike.

Philosophy staff and students voted to strike on June 20th and a majority of staff and students boycotted classes.

Other Departments either joined the strike or declared their support for it, and the ideas behind it. The strongest backer of the Philosophers was the Government department, but support also came from Fine Arts, Italian, English Education, History and Economics Departments.

To many, the rejection of Jacka and Curthays was a perfect example of the type of discrimination the course aimed to discuss, a discrimination based solely on traditional sexist assumptions. But the issue of self management and progressive education cannot be separated from it.

As a philosophy department leaflet pointed out.

"If you want a reality-oriented, critical, self-managed education, in which the education engages with real issues instead of wandering in the maze of irrelevant issues and problems imposed upon you by the reward-and-punishment dispensers in our education system — this strike concerns you".

The lessons of the strike are obvious — University teachers must be prepared to discuss the issues that concern the community and they must be prepared to challenge their own visions of social relation-



ship as it is this challenge alone which will enable universities, as institutions to play a purposeful role in the improvement of society.

The attitude of one Sydney university history lecturer who is reported as having said

"A university is an expensive middle-class play-thing, but that's where I currently earn a crust, so you must expect a measure of compromise" epitomises the type of view that has kept universities from becoming more than "expensive middle-class playthings".

Sports Union

A General Meeting of the Sports Union will be held on Tuesday 31 July, 1973 in the Physics Lecture Theatre, SGS, commencing at 8.00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Formal Business
 - A Minutes
 - The minutes of the General Meeting held Thursday 21st September 1972 will be confirmed.

- B Apologies to be received.
2. Business Arising from Minutes
3. General Business
 - (1) Reports
 - (a) additional lighting
 - (b) finance for tennis courts
 - (c) University Councils rejection of the Blues Regulations.
 - (2) Fees Increase 1974
 - Moved Judge/Read
 - "That the Sports Union fees for 1974 be increased to \$16.00 for undergraduate, staff and graduate members and \$8.00 for associate members of the Sports Union.

For adoption.

Neil Gray, Executive Secretary



THE UNIVERSITY UNION recommends



SULLIVAN'S BISTRO

LUNCH DINNER
MONDAY-FRIDAY MIDDAY-2.30PM
MONDAY-SATURDAY 6-11PM
RESERVATIONS 493655



...ance under over/ head
bridge walkway

The BOYS in the band

The Rock Revolution may be less cataclysmic than its partisans claim, but if rock music has not detonated the social explosions of the last ten years, it has certainly transmitted them more clearly than any other media artifact. Political protest, easy riding, psychedelia—you heard it first in stereophonic sound. I don't think "Sergeant Pepper" invented the drug culture or Dylan singlehandedly caused the times to a-change. But they made mass what was only minor; they broadcast a sensibility of a few and created a sensation for the many.

That process of magnification is being repeated this season with the mass-marketing of gay rock, and the prominent exponents, David Bowie and Lou Reed. There have been gay rock stars before—Little Richard leaps to mind—but the predictable commercial and social pressures always kept them closeted when recording or performing time rolled around. Some went through the oppressive process of rewriting their homosexual material in heterosexual terms; other cultivated a campy ambiguity in their public image and left the rest to gossip.

But those are old, sad songs. Bowie and Reed come out, in word and deed, in lyric and performance. Bowie's live show, which I caught in Boston on the winter tour of America, was about as flaming a performance as I've seen topside of the caverns of the sexual netherworld. Many of his songs express gay love and its special pain. His glittery costumes fit somewhere between droog and drag. His movements across the stage are choreographed with a slippery lyricism that negates the sticky posturing of male rock musicians. He and his lead guitarist exchange erotic glances, gestures and grasps that are only barely acceptable between a man and a woman in a band under straighter circumstances.

Reed hasn't been around in his newest incarnation (he's due soon on a tour), although in the old days he would surface now and again as the star of the Velvet Underground on the Warhol/junk circuit. But Reed's latest album, *Transformer*, is both graphically and lyrically a gay tum-on. On the back cover he appears as an absurdly basketed biker and (do my eyes play tricks?) a bosomy siren. And in "Make Up" he promises:

*We're comin' out,
Yeah, we're comin' out,
Out of our closets...*

It's hard to be more explicit.

But until Bowie and Reed, there has been no forthright gay content in rock aboveground—only the suggestive prances of Mick Jagger or the violent tantrums of Alice Cooper. Gay men have had to choose between watching a closet tease and a sadistic straight queen as they try in vain to identify with the culture that rock music expresses. Nor have straight men who are looking for non-macho models found many in male rock. Rock concert audiences have the ambience of P.E. classes in a high school gym when the lights blow out. Audiences of rock FM stations are overwhelmingly male.

What's curious, at first glance, is that there have been undercurrents of sexual ambiguity in rock since the beginning, from Elvis through Little Richard to James Brown and Mick Jagger. The theme is definitely ambiguity—rather than, say, homosexuality or bisexuality—because what is presented is not a variant

of sexuality but the titillating sensation of the ambiguous. That's what sold, as the culture sells alienation or violence.

Some of the performers are more ambiguous than others. Alice Cooper performs in drag (less so, of late), but he makes it known that the boys in the band are closet straights. On his recent nationwide TV/FM, "simulcast", Cooper felt constrained to step out of "character" for a moment and address the camera: "A lot of people think that me and my boys here are ... funny boys. Now, isn't that just a bit silly?" Elton John has affected sparkles and satins and presents a Cockettish drag number in his touring show; and he and his writing half, Bernie Taupin, have finished a new love song to a man ("Daniel") who may or may not be his biological "brother." The Kinks had a hit single a while back about a transvestite named "Lola." Rod Stewart and the Faces continue to defy straight identification in their shows, although not in their music.

Riding the front wave of sexual liberation rock, Bowie and his Sacanarolan manager, Tony DeFries, have embarked upon a project to create not just any old superstar, but an exploding supernova as big as the Beatles, with a distinctly '70s gestalt. I'm not at all sure what they think they're doing (nor is it clear that they know for sure) but media flotsam like space and sex and multi-mix and *The Show* keep bobbing up. Bowie's show, called (like the record) "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars," was put together in his homebase, London, and launched on the American tour. The show and the shuck were successful, although in less than cosmic dimensions, and Bowie/aka/Ziggy is now a sweatshirt word.

My impression is that the space motif has always allowed Bowie to make more ambiguous the anguish of coming out, and to escape to a degree the reality of his personal-social conflict about sexuality. About the time I was getting into Bowie, I went to see a rerun of the film of Tennessee Williams' *Streetcar Named Desire*. I don't know what people made of it at the time it was first shown,

but it seemed to me to be brimming with gay pain, fears, anger. And yet I know Williams has explicitly denied that it is a play "about" homosexuals disguised as straight people. Bowie's extended space metaphor appears to have the same sort of earth-based referents—sexual oddity for space oddity, gay fantasy for "Moonage Daydream." At the same time, Bowie looks "out there" to a future of transcendent sexuality: "Is there life on Mars?" he asks bitterly, and hopefully, at the end of one of his songs about the horrors of a repressive life on earth. And in *Oh! You Pretty Things*, he exclaims,

*"Oh you pretty things
Don't you know you're driving your
Mamas and Papas insane...
Let me make it plain
You gotta make way for the Homo
Superior...
Look out at your children
See their faces in golden rays
Don't kid yourself they belong to
you
They're the start of a coming race
The earth is a bitch*



*We've finished our news
Homo Sapiens have outgrown their
use...*

Although Bowie and Reed are the most up-front and authentic exemplars of the movement to de-macho rock music, they have their antecedents in the culture. The attack on "cock rock" which came in the first wave of feminism in the late '60s has had its effect. Some of the heaviness has disappeared from the music. There's even a critical backlash to that fashion: some male critics have been calling the Carole King-James Taylor-Joni Mitchell trend the "limp dick" axis. All that phallic imagery speaks for itself.

The new mellow music is easy to take, but it is not necessarily antithetical to male rock. Some

of the most flagrant forms of oppression (under My Thumb") have fallen to more subtle ones ("Where You Lead, I Will Follow"), just as the "new sensitivity" often allows male domination to continue — by other means.

There are, actually, a few expressions of feminist culture creeping into the rock scene, both commercially and underground: groups like Alice Stuart or the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band, to cite polar examples. But it's rough going here as elsewhere. Most of the money, most of the audience, most of the industry is at best wary of explicit feminism, and at worst hostile. Despite that, women can occasionally find female groups, or more likely a female lead singer in a male group, with whom to identify.

Whatever the "sexual orientation" of these musicians may be, the issue they raise concerns the effect of their sexual games, not the details of their preferences. It's not important whether this one or the other is straight, gay, or at some other point on the continuum.

Alice Cooper's constant conjunction of "sexviolence" (as in "lawncorder") is so corrupt that he almost comes out the other end into innocence; but not quite. The others may be less pathological, but they seem to prefer to get into decadence, rather than into liberation. I'm not sure that there is always a discernible distinction between those modes—decadence and liberation. New values always grow from the ashes of the old; we've got to rock or mock the old culture to death before we can fashion a new one.

Bowie and Reed, as far ahead as they are, still taste a bit of ashes. Just as there can't be truly revolutionary institutions in a non-revolutionary society, there can't be liberated people in a repressive society: only people working on liberation. Bowie's showbiz paraphernalia and Reed's Velvety camp are understandable evasions and justifiable responses to an intolerable sexual straitjacket—but evasions and responses just the same. Only life on Mars escapes the terms of existence and the forms of behaviour that Earth lays down.

Student Assessment of Staff

Course and Teacher Evaluation

Under construction at the moment is a programme of student assessment of courses and teachers.

The Committee of the Board of the School of General Studies on Teacher Evaluation recommended university wide evaluation of teaching but the report of this committee was rejected by the Board. However, following a submission by the Vice-Chancellor the Board resolved to encourage evaluation by individuals and groups within the University. It is hoped that at the end of this year, for the benefit of re-enrolling and new enrollment students, and of teachers a booklet which incorporates an analysis of many full year and second semester units could be produced. We hope that, following overseas models, the booklet might contain an entry for each subject of something like the following form.

Department of Sociology

Unit: Sociology I

Lecturers Statement: "The objectives of his course are....."

Number of students enrolled: Number of students surveyed.

Lecturers Name: a, b, tutors names a, b,
Students evaluation: a) the most significant results of the survey
b) the generality and most significant comments from the survey
c) summary of results of questionnaire.

In choosing a questionnaire many from all over the world were studied but for several reasons we are not satisfied with any of them in toto.

So many of the questionnaires seen were nothing more than consumer surveys and the publication of results for students and teachers is nothing more than a computer print out sheet bound into a book - consisting principally of a tally of poll ratings on a 6 point scale to various virtues and vices they seem to feel are universally valid. In the writing up of this evaluation it is hoped to avoid the tendency of surveys to exaggerate the average response by giving greater importance to the comments of those who felt strongly one way or the other about their teachers and courses.

The questionnaire will probably be distributed early in third term. It is hoped that all students will cooperate and an accurate picture of students opinions of courses and instructors will be obtained.

SET THE STAGE
For the Union Art Competition,
In the Bridge, Union Building,
September 11 - September 16.

Entries are invited for sections and prizes in:
General (painting and three dimensional)
Graphics
Photographics
Ceramics

Prizes:

Union Prize for the best overall entry - \$100.
Union Prize for the best photographic - \$30
Union Prize for the best ceramic - \$30
J.B. Youngs Prize for the best student entry - \$50
Swains Prize for the best graphic - \$30

Entry forms and information from the Union Office of phone 492446;



LEARNING EXCHANGE

On Thursday, July 12th, a meeting was held of some of those interested in the concept of a Learning Exchange in Canberra. Laura Turnbull, of the World Education Fellowship, was present and was able to suggest several possible contacts potentially influential in getting an exchange underway.

The meeting learned that there are several, Community Service Centres already becoming established in Canberra. These

Hobart Place Pharmacy

10% Discount To Students with I.D. Cards.

Check our prices for: Toothpaste, Deodorants, Soaps, etc.
We stock all quality toiletries including: Revlon, Yardley, Steiner, Eyelax, Outdoor Girl, Perfumery.

Before going to the supermarket - at concession prices - we beat them all.

are at private addresses where people can ring for information on various things - such as, clubs and societies, legal advice, etc. Obviously, this is similar in concept to a learning exchange and any exchange set up should logically work with these groups.

It was also learned that the TAB provide grants for community services. A submission for a grant is to be drafted this week.

A publicity release, explaining the structure and aims of the Exchange is being printed for general and media distribution.

A submission to the Dept. of the Capital Territory is yet to be drafted. It is hoped that they can be persuaded to bear the bulk of the financial burden that such things as rent for premises would create.

The Melbourne Learning Exchange has its own newspaper in which items of interest and lists of teachers/potential learners are published. It is hoped that the extra work-load could be avoided by printing the same sort of information in regular spaces in various established community newspapers. It is also hoped that notice-board space in community centres such as the Monaro Mall and Woden Plaza would be another means of spreading information on learning/teaching requirements. The manager of the Mall has approached and seems interested. No formal response has been received.

An article about the Learning Exchange will appear in the CAE paper, CCAESARIAN soon, and also hopefully a feature in the Canberra Times.

There is a meeting in the Clubs and Meeting Societies Room next Tuesday, 31st July. Anyone with any ideas on anything and especially on the submissions to the Dept. of the Capital Territory would be most welcome or interested in the Learning Exchange. Alternatively, contact Steve Jones, c/o CAC Office.

There is a meeting about the School Without Walls in the old Canberra High on August 1st. Literature on the Exchange will be distributed there, as the people attending represent a fairly wide cross section of Canberra. The meeting will also be worth attending for its own sake. For further information see Jamie Griffin, c/o Woroni or read the article in the second Woroni of this term.

Dear Sir,

After Laurel Smith's And Ralph O'Connor's Letter in the last Woroni, one may well ask: who runs the

Union? If Board members do not even understand what happens at meetings, and are as careless of the truth as Smith and O'Connor, then we can be sure it is not the Board members!

What are the facts? The Executive meeting of 2 July, after considering an urgent plea from Bar Staff to get an order in for 9oz glasses to avoid intolerable delays, agreed to the request. It agreed on two conditions:

1) That this was only a time saver and was a decision that could be cancelled WITH NO FINANCIAL LOSS to the Union, and
2) That this would NOT PRE-EMPT a proper consideration by the Bar Committee of the choice they STILL HAD to raise prices or to reduce glass size.

At the Board Meeting, it was clear that Smith and O'Connor objected to A POSSIBLE DECISION OF THE BAR COMMITTEE, namely to reduce glass size. Despite the fact that this was IRRELEVANT to the Executive decision, they challenged that decision. The BOARD did not support them.

They then decided to pre-empt the Bar Committee's proper decision of the issue, and to decide that, as a matter of a policy, glass size should not be refused. THE BOARD REJECTED THIS. Finally, they tried to castrate the Board by resolving to prevent their decision from becoming effective until after the next Board meeting, where, obviously, they would oppose any reduction in glass size. THE BOARD also rejected this.

This long process, in which Smith and O'Connor were given every opportunity to air their views and have them discussed, voted upon and decided, can, by no stretch of the imagination be accurately described by: 'The Executive decision was blatantly pushed through the Board meeting...'

Yours sincerely,

Union Executive
Patrick Power
Richard Refshauge
Francis Keighley



CANBERRA THEATRE
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th August at 8.15pm

Bookings open now at Canberra Theatre (497600)
& Bouchier's (Kingston)

PRICES: \$3.70 - STUDENTS: \$2.20
Children & Pensioner Concessions Available

PROGRAMME INCLUDES - Passionfruit, Untitled,
Le Corsaire, The Dolls, Couples, Western Symphony,
Classic Pattern, La Source (eight ballets, seven choreo
graphers)



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B. TIE	0.25
\$10.00	

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Private Collection

An Australian film reviewed

PRIVATE COLLECTION: the film and its producer.

As pointed out in the *Canberra Times* (July 17) Keith Salvat's film *Private Collection* never rises to great heights. It does, however, provide the viewer with an hour and a half of quiet enjoyment. While the plot is never meant to dominate the film its melodramatic quality is adequate to sustain the visual effects and thoughtful contrasts which Salvat creates. Peter Reynolds dominates the film in the role of a fanatic collector with a heart condition - his good effect is largely gained through well controlled facial expression. Pam Stephenson was great as his tap-dancing dream-like wife who lived in a childhood world of fantasy. I didn't find the film as funny as the advertising suggested it would be and was a little disappointed in Graham Bond who usually provides a few good laughs. Possibly the most impressive aspect of the film was the camera work which (considering that all scenes were shot only once) showed competence and imagination, especially in a slow motion scene towards the end of the film when Pam Stephenson tap-dances away with hubby's heart pills and watches him die at her feet.

Before I saw *Private Collection* I talked to its producer/director Keith Salvat at the Centre Cinema. While having no great illusions about the prosperity of the Australian film industry I was just a bit surprised to find Salvat arranging his own window advertising. (visions of Fellini or Warhol groping around dusty display windows in New York or London flashed into my mind). This immediately raised

the problem which faces all producers in Australia i.e. film distribution. A couple of firms control distribution here and until a recent Tariff Board enquiry (which used *Private Collection* as evidence on behalf of the Australian Film Development Corporation) offered Australian producers such shithouse contracts that distribution was generally arranged on an individual basis - thus Keith Salvat has the tedious job of chasing his film around the country to see that all goes well. Similar stumbling blocks are provided by less commercial organizations; the Australian Film Institute refused to even consider *Private Collection* for its 1972 film festival because it had never won a prize - not exactly the way for a local institution to endorse itself to local film makers.

Salvat has lots of good words for the AFDS, a government body which subsidizes local feature films which appear to have a chance of commercial success (AFDC also supports other types of film such as the two good Brian Robinson shorts which were shown with *Private Collection* at the Centre Cinema). Although Salvat was only subsidized to the tune of \$24,000 similar ventures are now receiving as much as \$150,000 i.e. film budgets can at least approach a level of reality. The next level of responsibility belongs to the Australian film goer who can no longer decide not to see a film just because it is Australian.

At the moment the film industry in Australia is intricately tied up with other fields such as TV and theatre. What experience we have in film work, script writing and acting is now devoted to these



areas. Salvat himself pays his rent via a trainee directorship with the Melbourne Theatre Co. once again indicating the economic wasteland of Australian films. While Salvat advocates cooperation with TV (e.g. making films especially for that medium) and theatre he would also like to see a degree of specialization which will allow writers, actors and technicians to gain the experience necessary to make good feature films.

This year Salvat hopes to stage a "poppy musical" for the Melbourne Theatre Co. He firmly believes that pop music is overtaking films as a means of communication in the modern world. Youth no longer looks for its heroes on the silver screen; instead it is turning to the stars of the pop stage for stimulation and leadership.

This does not mean that films are finished, at the moment Salvat is planning a film which (as *Private Collection* was total fantasy) shall portray total contemporary reality. His only delay comes from the lack of good scripts and adequate financial backing. Considering that Salvat believes that life is really an R-rated movie, (not a B grade as many passive pessimists would believe) Australia could be in for a dose of violent/sexy cinema [Gough Whitlam being kicked in the balls by a naked Billie Snedden...?]

Salvat is not a super Australian nationalist as far as the future of the Australian film industry is concerned. Even if money and scripts were found, even if we avoided what seems an inevitable submission to commercialism, Salvat still feels that Australia will remain a cultural backwater. After visits overseas his return to Australia leaves him rather depressed at the lack of contact we have with the flow of vitality and progressive ideas which pass between America and Europe. He does not totally reject Australia; his ideal life would be based in London or New York with flying visits to make films. While I see this compromise as unrealistic it portrays yet again our longing for other cultures and suspicion of our own. However, perhaps for Keith Salvat it could resolve the dilemma produced by what Geoffrey Blainey describes as the "tyranny of distance".
Tim Mackay

PAGE 9.

SECOND SA MEETING FAILS

or

BOY BITES DOG

THE 'NEW LOOK' ANU STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Well, the second meeting failed to start!
Lack of publicity + lack of interest =
Lack of quorum.

The old style ANU SA certainly left the power in the hands of the minority, but it also left the responsibility in the hands of a minority. That is, the responsibility of turning up, of taking part, of doing work.

Now that is all changed. Now EVERYONE has the responsibility; EVERYBODY has to do the work. This is a pretty simple analysis, but when the truth of it is so blatantly flouted, it was through the last general meeting, it obviously needs to be stated.

So: many of the items on the agenda are merely procedural - adoption of minutes, Presidential report, election of officers - but the control of these by YOU was the point of the new amendments. YOU ASKED FOR IT - ACCEPT IT.

Among other matters, were important social motions:

* Repeal of Vagrancy laws - a paradigmatic example of the 'oppressive laws aimed by the middle-class at the lower-class, making another victimless crime';

* Register of student houses - apparently urgently needed in the current housing difficulties, but perhaps a dangerous collection of information.

* Legalisation of grass;

* Drug Referral Service;

* Activities of the Canberra Drug Squad - are your 'friendly D.S.' real enemies or paternalistic friends?;

* Subsidy for advertising contraceptives - should the ANU SA pay for more contraceptive advertising now that the law has been changed.

These, and other matters will now be discussed at the adjourned meeting on Tuesday, July 31, in the Refectory at 8.00pm.

IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE - TAKE IT!

CAREERS

with the Australian Public Service

Representatives of the Australian Public Service Board will visit the University on **30 July-1 Aug.** to interview interested students.

Appointments should be arranged with **Careers and Appointments Officer**

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27 July - 17 August

THE WAR GOES ON

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Report by Guy Belanger, Bishop of Valleyfield (Quebec), and George A. Sevel, Professor of Law at Montreal.

Part One

The Existence of Political Prisoners in South Vietnam

During our stay of almost two weeks in South Vietnam, it was possible for us to meet a certain number of prisoners of old who had recently been set free, as well as several families of people actually being detained by the Government of South Vietnam.

As a result of this enquiry, we can assert formally and with documents to back up the assertion that the government of the Republic of South Vietnam in fact has in detention a very large number of political prisoners.

We take objection, moreover, to the over-simplification and sophistry of the government of South Vietnam which claims that any ideas which does not coincide with the views of the present can be accused of being communist-inspired or of being a pro-communist neutralist and justifies the imprisonment of innocent people. We are aware of the case of several people imprisoned simply for having maintained that it was possible to arrive at a negotiated peace in South Vietnam.

On the basis of this definition it was possible for us to assert and to gather formal evidence that there are in South Vietnam thousands of political prisoners:

A. Prisoners in detention as a result of being condemned by the "Countryside Military Tribunal".

We have been able to verify the case of several tens of prisoners actually existing in prison having been sentenced by the "Countryside Military Tribunal".

A special tribunal which used to be the Special Military Tribunal. Technically this tribunal should only be concerned with military matters, but a series of decrees/laws provides that all political affairs come within its competence.

Though we have not been able to verify it, the figure of 27,000 prisoners condemned by this military campaign tribunal was given us by a large religious organization worthy of the greatest confidence: to be precise, the Venerable Thiek Huyen Quang, Secretary General of the South Vietnamese Buddhist Church.

B. Prisoners in preventive detention.

We have also confirmed the existence of a large number of prisoners in preventive detention, who have been arrested by one of the ten different police organizations operating in South Vietnam, and who, up until now have not been accused, tried or convicted.

South Vietnamese laws fixed the period of preventive detention at a maximum

of 48 hours, but recent amendments have increased this maximum to 120 days and this can be extended by the judge.

In spite of the exorbitant and abnormal length of time, which is in itself a source of great injustice, we have confirmed the existence of numerous cases where this preventive detention had illegally continued for more than a year.

We have confirmed that many of them were detained for purely political reasons.

C. Prisoners in administrative internment.

We have also confirmed the existence of another category of prisoners detained officially and specifically for political reasons. In fact article 19 of the decree law 004/66 of 15 February 1966 provides that "by order of the Prime Minister, any person considered dangerous to national defence and public security may be interned in a prison or a detention camp for a maximum period of two (2) years which may be extended". Imprisonment is not dependent upon a legal trial and conviction. It is a matter of unilateral decision by the government and does not need to be explained or justified.

By the very nature of this administrative internment all prisoners in this category correspond exactly to the definition of political prisoners and we have confirmed that there are a lot of them.

The same religious leader mentioned before (the venerable Thiek Huyen Quang) has estimated, by means of the sums of money set apart to feed these prisoners, that there is a minimum of 30,000 of them provided for by the central government alone. This minimum number does not include prisoners in preventive detention provided for by provincial or local authorities.

Fear of having to give account of their actions may perhaps restrain a little the repressive activities of the government, who would doubtless like one day to wipe out all living proof of its acts.

On this point international opinion may be a great help in improving the lot of these political prisoners.

Part Two.

The Situation of Political Prisoners
Because of the pressure of international opinion on the question of political prisoners, the government of the Vietnamese Republic is at the moment proceeding with reclassification of prisoners by changing the status of political prisoners to that of common law prisoners.

A. Changing of Status

We have been informed, for instance, that during the week preceding the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, the military campaign tribunal was in continuous session within the very prison of Tan Hiep in the absence of the accused people and without their lawyers (if they ever had one). This was in order to

proceed with the rapid conviction on the grounds of common law crime, of the thousands of political prisoners who were still held in preventive detention.

We verified from documents of the Penal Administration (i.e. permits for families to visit) that some prisoners who were termed 'political' by the government before the Paris Agreement are now classified as common law prisoners. However, this procedure isn't possible for prisoners who are too well known and who have been prominent in the political scene — i.e. MPs, university professors, leaders of democratic organizations or students.

B. The Legal confusion.

In this operation of transforming political prisoners to common law prisoners, the government's task is made easy by the inextricable legal confusion e.g. the military campaign tribunal is permitted to judge political affairs as well as affairs of common law.

C. Acquitted people continue to be detained.

The accusation of disturbing public order is even broader when you realise that it can also justify administrative internment. There are numerous prisoners who after being acquitted by the military tribunal, are still detained by the measure of internal administration taken by the government.

We have been informed, and possess a list of 400 prisoners detained at Na Trang prison who were called before the prison authorities on 15 February 1973 and made to sign a form bearing their fingerprints which testified that they had been freed by the authorities. Yet, on 16 February, these 400 prisoners, officially and administratively freed, were transported to the prison island of Con Son. We were informed that similar forms were distributed in numerous South Vietnamese prisons. There is every reason to believe that when the present administration has to render accounts it will attempt to disclaim all responsibility for these fraudulent documents.

D. Atrocious Conditions of Detainment

The international press has outlined the grave physical and psychological consequences of incarceration in the Thieu government's jails. We can confirm the occurrence of maltreatment and torture.

We were able to meet in the Saigon countryside four people recently freed from the Con Son (Paulo Condor) tiger cages, where they had spent six long years.

All four, gravely ill, could not and can no longer walk as a result of their maltreatment. They were all suffering from serious liver and lung diseases. One of them suffered from convulsions reminiscent of an epileptic fit. They assured

us that they had been in perfect health when arrested.

Without papers it was impossible to move or separate them, for two of them had families in Saigon. They begged us to do something for them so they might be looked after, either taking them to hospital or asking that they might be handed over to the PRG authorities.

Our Vietnamese assured us that there were hundreds of cases such as these.

E. Torture.

These old inmates confirmed having been tortured since their arrest, and having been beaten by warders and right-wing prisoners. Other political inmates and people who had been authorized to visit their near ones in prison described to us scenes of atrocious torture and the terrible sequel to such treatment.

Part Three

The Repression Continues

We must not think that the signing of the Paris Accords in January 1973 has put an end to the repression, arrests and torture. We must also report of the horror and fear which is a part of each day under the authority of Thieu.

We have obtained a copy of an official telegram signed and sent by the General Secretary of the National Council for Operation Phoenix (Phung Hoeng). This operation, denoted alternatively under the name F6 Program, has been set by American advisers and has the avowed aim of physically liquidating the cadres and sympathizers of the PRG in South Vietnam.

A telegram dated 5 April, 1973, proves that the operation, though hitherto thought ended, still continues, with the goal of "rendering harmless people who disturb the peace".

This telegram also gives a precise idea of the artificial character of the legal procedures and practices followed. It explains that, in order to allow total to the central authorities, it suffices to denote on imprisonment committal papers "disturber of the peace". A person committed thus might also be brought before the Military Tribunal for the Countryside or the local Security Council, perhaps to be convicted under common law, or if a political prisoner, to be sent to a Concentration camp by the Security Council by virtue of an administrative means of internment.

Conclusion

We bring from Vietnam the proof that there exist political prisoners detained by the Thieu government, that they are maltreated and tortured, that even when released their freedom is a living death, that the political arrests and imprisonments continue and that, without an energetic intervention by international public opinion and a mobilisation of democratic forces, many, after so many others, will lose their lives.

What they are asking for is simply the most elementary justice; the liberation of innocent people unjustly detained for political reasons.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY UNION NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

All members of the A.N.U. Union who are not members of the incoming Board and not employed by the Union are invited to apply for the following positions on the listed Union Committees:

House Committee	:	3 positions
Bar Committee	:	1 position
Development Committee	:	5 positions
Discipline Committee	:	4 positions

Applications should be made in writing, supported by a mover and seconder from among the Union's membership and include a brief list of past experience. Applicants are also requested to appear before the incoming Board for interview — to take place on Monday 6th August — 8 pm.

The tenure of office of committee members will be ONE YEAR from 7th August, 1973. Please note that Committee Meetings are usually held on Mondays.

E.C. de Toth,
Secretary to the Union.

post vietnam syndrome

PENTAGON ADMITS 10,000 NON-COMBAT DEATHS IN INDOCHINA

Washington, June 16 (PNS) — Over 10,000 US servicemen died in south-east Asia from causes other than combat, the Pentagon has admitted in a letter to Democrat Senator Robert Byrd, which the senator recently made public. The figure means that over one in four of those killed in Indochina died from non-combat causes.

The figures were contained in a report from Amex, an American exile group, and published in Peace News on June 8. The paper says:

"In his letter to Senator Byrd, the Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary, Lieut-Gen. Benade, said non-hostile deaths totalled 10,303 up to the end of last March. Of these, 973 were cases of 'accidental homicide', 190 murders, 793 'accidental self-destruction' and 379 suicides. Other 'accidents' resulted in the deaths of 1,420. At least 102 drug abuse deaths were recorded up to the end of August.

"The letter said the Pentagon is seriously concerned over such deaths particularly those caused by fraying (assault by throwing fragmentation or anti-personnel bombs) and of accidental homicide, but went on to minimise the importance of those."

The continued demoralisation afflicting returned US soldiers is described in the May-June issue of Amex-Canada, published by American exiles in Canada, and the June issue of Winter Soldier, paper of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and the Winter Soldier Organisation. Both papers describe what psychiat-

rists have called the Post-Vietnam Syndrome; Winter Soldier renames it Post-Vietnam Struggle. Symptoms of the affliction, according to a New York psychiatrist, Dr C.F. Shantan, are "Guilt, self-punishment, no outlet for bitterness or hatred, feelings of being a scapegoat, psychic numbing, alienation, inability to express love or trust, and confusion from never really knowing who the 'enemy' is."

According to one study, an estimated 23 to 27 percent of Vietnam veterans over 500,000 people — have attempted suicide. Both papers report the case of Don Kemp, a veteran who developed "heavy paranoid symptoms" on his return from Vietnam, for which he was receiving treatment: he kept guns in his car and home, including one under his pillow.

His psychiatrist noted some improvement in his condition and recommended his discharge from treatment; in the words of two other veterans who knew him, "Don then went home and upon being awakened out of one of his terrifying nightmares by his wife shot her dead with the gun he kept under his pillow." He is now in jail for life.

Amex-Canada also reports cuts of several hundred million dollars imposed by the US administration on congressionally approved programmes aimed at providing health, education and employment benefits for Vietnam veterans. Cuts in the Veterans Administration health programme totalled \$178 million alone, it said.

PNS, June 1973.

GROWING UP WITH JACK?



On Sick Doctors

Wednesday 12th July, was a high energy, high tech day for several members of a Canberra Branch of the Hare Alcohol Consciousness Affinity.

The pubescent periods of the day were wiled away in the hallowed environs of our local temple, the Union Bar, discoursing on the state of the economy, and the price of piss.

However as the twilight hours were well and truly beginning to numb the sunlight and our burdened brains I was suddenly accosted with a series of verbal blows up my earhole. In fact, when I had distilled the cliches, it appeared that a demonstration was in the offering — the ANU Labour Club (Revoluting Communist) was going to pay homage to Dr Peter Arnold, the president of the General Practitioners Society, who was convening a meeting at the Albert Hall.

Most people are made aware at some stage of their lives of the sort of scene Peter and his henchmen are dealing in — I mean paying \$5.60 to open a door and confront a pair of dollar-flashing eyes, sizing you up for wallet value is enough to induce nausea in the most ironcast of alcoholic innards.

Being ever aware of the threat of alcoholic poisoning, my heart was stirred to venture forth and protect the interests of the aged, the sick and the infirm. Therefore the Guru Jack Gi, the fat 22 years old mystic procured several cans of Courage Bitter and in due course his slender figure graced the entrance of the Albert Hall.

Several scruffy, illkempt, longhaired, poofers (obviously masquerading under that eternal excuse, "I'm a student") were assembled in the foyer harassing their friendly family doctors with handbills denigrating their financial motives. I managed to slip past most of these undesirables but one of them glimpsed a sight of my cherubic facial structure and collared me under the pretence of being an acquaintance.

This young fellow quickly slipped me some eggs and tomatoes and with a pat on the back vanished into the crowd. This episode considerably confused my sodden mental faculties but I let it pass, perhaps he thought I was a down-and-out doctor and was in need of such nourishment having spent my last cent on the second Jaguar.

The meeting had now opened and I hurriedly dashed to a seat near the front of the hall, as such a position was most advantageous to hear Arnold's bullshit lucidly.

On stage Arnold was supported by a panel of three Canberra doctors who were not introduced for ethical reasons. (by the way the association of ethics and doctors appears to me to contain an innate discrepancy).

difficult due to a vocal minority of about 30 people out of the 350 present who greeted him with heckling and jeering, or as a local paper put it "by hisses, boos, whistles and horn-blowing." Despite this Arnold was only obviously distraught on two occasions when he referred to several of the assembled as "bombastic nongs" and "rude people".

The remaining speeches were greeted in a similar vein and occasionally with an egg. Apparently there were other members of the audience who had been

However, Arnold won the toss and went in to bat first, but this was a little mistaken for down-and-out doctors as well. Still it was only natural after hearing the passionate pleas of poverty from the doctors, to donate these same eggs to more deserving members of the community.

Question time at the end of the Doctor's Follies was a complete shambles with the chairman refusing many questions to be answered due to interjections. By this stage at least half the audience had departed unimpressed with the proceedings and the meeting was closed.

This appeared to be the cue for a massive assault of eggs and tomatoes by the ruffians and I don't think I can remember any other time when I have seen four people leave a stage so fast.

The meeting was over and I had run out of cans so the obvious next move was to return to the Union Bar and suck more piss. We drove off as the pigs arrived.

Cervisia lux mea,
Jack Growford



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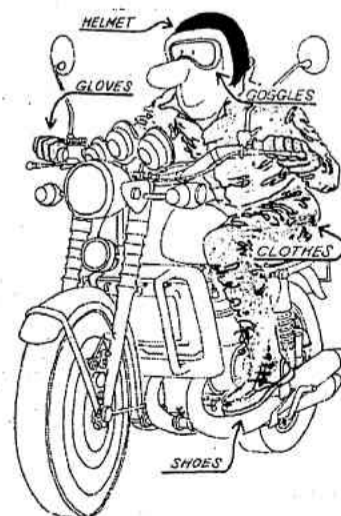
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Continued from page 3

the open the discontent in all parts of the university with the Board's proposal.

After the circulation of piles of paper, the holding of endless seminars and the moving of countless resolutions, the cumbersome formal machinery of university government, clearly designed with little thought to realistic student participation, finally swung against the proposed semester calendar.

Incredible efforts were made to convince the Board that, really, not terribly many people were wholeheartedly in favour of the semester calendar (something the Working Party told them). A campaign was needed in effect to over-publicise the vital fact that so many people were violently opposed to the semester calendar — all these endeavours were necessary, not so much to overcome the complexity of the system of university government, but to achieve probably what comes to the same thing, to compensate for the bias in the system against student opinion. All this was required in order to convince the members of the Board (which includes no student representative at all) that they were wrong — that they didn't know what everyone was thinking — and if they did, then such opinion had to be given due weight.

It was this attitude — that the welfare of the university as seen by the Board takes precedence over the welfare of the university as seen by the university — which had to be overcome.

Only last month, one Board paper summing up the arguments for and against a semester calendar concluded with the incredible statement,

"It seems then that, on the evidence available at this moment, the most significant argument against moving to a semester calendar is that it is not favoured by the majority of the participants"

—the idea clearly being that such opposition was based on no evidence or arguments of any merit at all and the Board's

view of the academic merits of a semester calendar remains valid and unchallenged!

The point about all these mixed metaphors and horrifying clichés is not to numb the reader into stupefaction but to emphasise that the process of ascertaining opinion, consulting the people concerned and forcing the Board of the SGS to open its eyes *took quite some time*. The ideas of those who set themselves up as our rulers were wrong. They were so wrong about the semester calendar that they failed to realise that people who study semester units can and many do prefer a year long calendar (e.g. 55% of re-enrolling students in the plebiscite who studied semester and year long units in the same year preferred the year long calendar).

The Board had to have a duly prepared circulated, collected, processed and evaluated survey before they would believe us.

A resolution of the Students' Association was not enough, it appears, to put the Board at least on notice of considerable opposition.

The Board was so out of touch with the campus that it failed to realise that many of the very people who were supposed to detest the present year long calendar did not in fact do so. (e.g. 68% of re-enrolling Forestry students in the sample preferred the year long calendar).

And YET ... the Board in one half of one hour (if that) has now decided to adopt the very Working Party Report it had once rejected. The compromise quaternal calendar had been rejected by the Board last November with the words that the calendar's "academic disadvantages outweighed the advantages". At that stage, the Board was, for some funny reason, anxious "to allow further discussion by staff (including members of the Board) and students on the issues involved."

After flopping from side to side like a bemused fish, the Board now suddenly finds it can after all make some use of the

Report of that sop of a Working Party it threw to the masses last year.

But no, — not the whole Report — not the bit about seeking the advice of the body which had the bad or good idea (depending on how straitened are the Board's circumstances when it looks at it) in the first place. In fact, a totally embittered and twisted person could hear the members of the Board thinking, "we had such trouble with the first calendar we proposed — how about we just throw this one up to Council and see whether they swallow it and we won't tell anyone — certainly not ask the people who are affected what they think."

Even a reasonable student would be entitled to ask what happened to the "further discussion by staff ... and students" which the Board earlier stated it was anxious to "allow".

After the disastrous effort to set up the semester calendar — after the Board was shown to be so completely out of touch with opinion on campus — after the desperate need to consult students yea, the necessity to look at the university as a whole for ideas on the calendar and the teaching structure had been clearly shown, the Board decides in half an hour to adopt another calendar, and this time *no-one* will be consulted or (the suspicion at one stage was) even told. The individual Faculty Education Committees were informed of the new calendar but *not* given an opportunity to express an opinion.

The incredible folly is that even if the Board only went so far as to accept the Working Party's offer and ask the people who came up with the quaternal calendar in the first place, they might find out that there are reservations held about the original Report and that some members may have changed their minds.

As one student said when confronted with the quaternal Calendar, the only good thing about it is that it means you can have two holidays in the skiing season!

There are two conclusions to be made

here — one specific and one general.

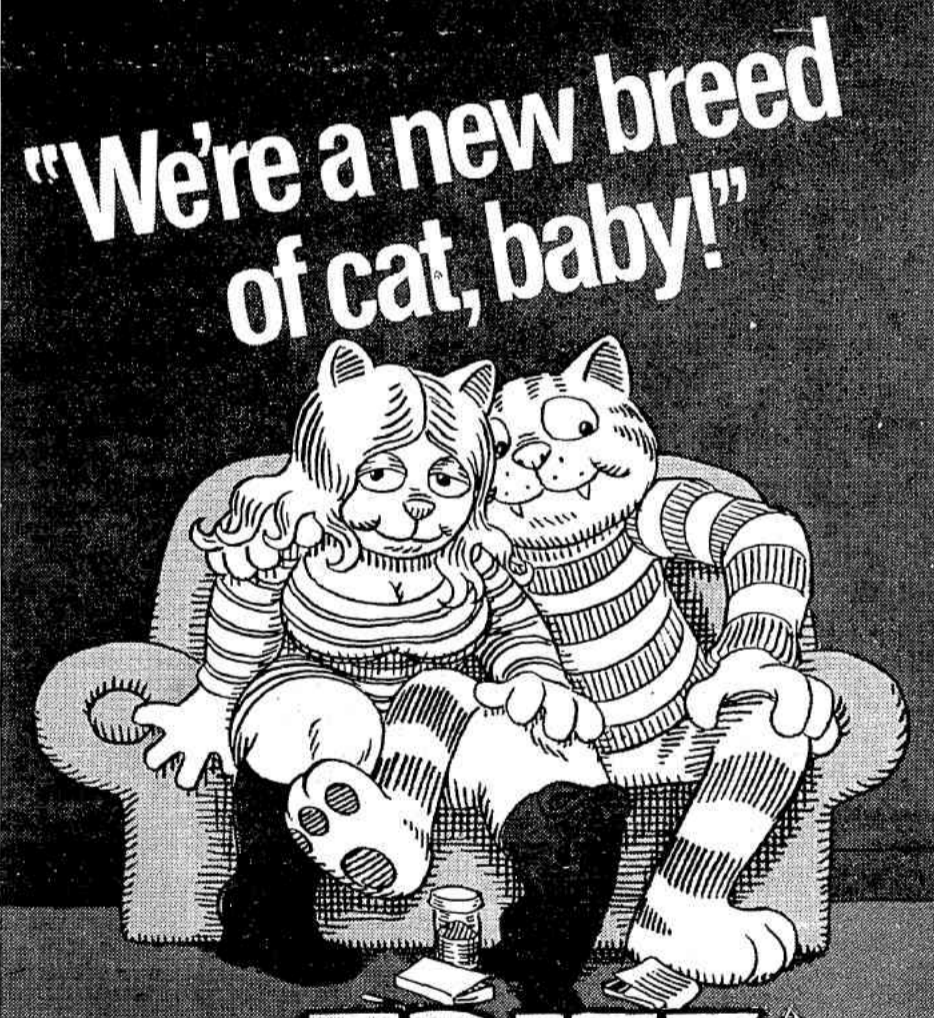
FIRST, it is the Board which seeks the change of calendar. It is up to *them* to justify the change, and to justify it to the university as a whole. They have before them the opinions of much of the School of General Studies on two calendars. They have no idea of opinion of the quaternal calendar.

It should not have to be a case of the university fighting once again to have a say, even to have the Board reconsider its decision: a decision to change the circumstances under which the students are taught. The onus is on the Board to substantiate its decision — *they*, not *us*, should be required to justify their view — to produce an Academic Impact Statement. Faced with support in the plebiscite for retaining the present calendar while searching for a new one, the Board's action could be interpreted as taken in deliberate disregard of the will of those to whom it hands down the law.

But SECOND, perhaps to those of us who have long looked upon the efficacy of the Board with scepticism, this matter has finally brought home this real truth: that the Board of the SGS is not and rarely has been in touch with the rest of the university. It is long time it was torn apart and reconstituted. Charges of incompetence, if made, would in themselves be sufficient to warrant such a reaction. But if, to a totally embittered and uncharitable mind, it seemed to come to a state of affairs such as that the welfare of the undergraduate school were threatened by what appeared to be an attempt by thinking men to avoid consultation and probably embarrassment — if all that could be concluded was that on the face of it our rulers were indulging in the ultimate in contempt — then members of the Board would have seriously to consider the words of Cromwell,

"it is not fit that you should sit here any longer! ... You shall now give place to better men."

David Buchanan



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